

Maidenhead
14 Dec. 1863

Dear Sir

I am afraid
that I can give no sa-
tisfactory answer to
your inquiry. I would
reply more positively,
if I could, if only on
account of the purpose
you have in view.

I never attempted
even a guess at the n^o.
of first folios (1623) in
existence; but the late
Thomas Rodd, a very
intelligent bookseller,
told me that, reckon-
ing all the perfect co-
pies and fragments with
he had seen and heard
of, he was of opinion
that considerably more
than 100 separate copies
were in existence.

Regarding the second folio (1632) I never speculated upon the point; but if I were to guess I should say that there were as many

The circumstances of the third folio (1664) are peculiar, as they were printed not long before the Fire of London and it has been usual to state (as very likely was the fact) that not a few were then lost.

No doubt some of
the ^{two} earlier impressions
were then also burned,
but in 1666 they had
been dispersed over a
wider circle.

This is really all I
am prepared to say upon
the subject. I wish, for
my own sake, as well as
yours, that I could tell
you more.

Yours very faithfully

J. Paine Collier

W. W. Robinson Esq.